

## **TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION GENDER ROLES AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

More than ever, the world holds many opportunities for women. Statistics show that the number of single women heading households is increasing. It is becoming evident that women must receive training to support themselves, and in many cases, a family. Economic realities show that 80% of women who start out married will end up single by the time they reach their 60's. The average married woman is in the work force 28 years of her life. The average unmarried woman will work approximately 40 years of her life.

There are no guarantees for any woman that someone is going to take care of her for the rest of her life. Studies show that only one in ten young women will marry, raise a family, be supported by a husband, and live to maturity with that husband. In fact, if the available women in the United States today were to marry every available man in America, there would be 8 million, 6 hundred thousand women left over. Many women will not marry; some will divorce, some will become widows, and some may have to support a husband who is disabled, leaving her the sole provider of the family.

Studies show that for every dollar a man makes, a woman will earn seventy-eight cents. This is because women traditionally choose lower paying jobs to pursue. Women choose clerical and waitress jobs rather than the plumbing or building jobs that men choose that command higher wages. With just a little training, more options for higher paying jobs with more benefits can be open to women.

Some men are going into traditionally female professions, too, and consequently the salary ranges in those professions seem to be increasing. More and more jobs of all types are available equally to either gender.

**J o b s**